

A crowd gathers at the restored train depot, which was moved from the Corrinne Station, upon the arrival of the Heber Creeper.

Heber City's Old Town open near Heber Creeper depot site

6-29-86

By SONNI SCHWINN
Wasatch County Correspondent

Herald

HEBER CITY — Heber City Old Town has opened at the Heber Creeper Depot site, just six blocks west of the only traffic signal on Main Street, in the middle of Heber City.

Visitors may stroll along the boardwalks and visit the quaint, restored shops, reminiscent of Heber City at the turn of the century, and ride the Heber Creeper, one of the last active steam railroads in the United States.

The original Utah Eastern Railroad Company began operating the first Heber Creeper in 1899, transporting passengers, freight and livestock to Provo. During the 1930s, more sheep left the Heber

Depot than any other single depot in the U.S.

According to local legend, the Creeper got its name because it had to slow down to 10 miles per hour and creep down the narrow, twisting Provo Canyon. Today's Creeper makes two, 3½ hour, round-trip runs daily, treating passengers to picturesque trips through the canyon to Vivian Park. However, they are cautioned to leave valuables at home because there is an outlaw gang on the route which holds up the train regularly.

The town is owned by Heber resident Loewe Ashton, who has leased the restored old shops to proprietors who sell crafts, treats and souvenirs. The main structure is the train depot which was

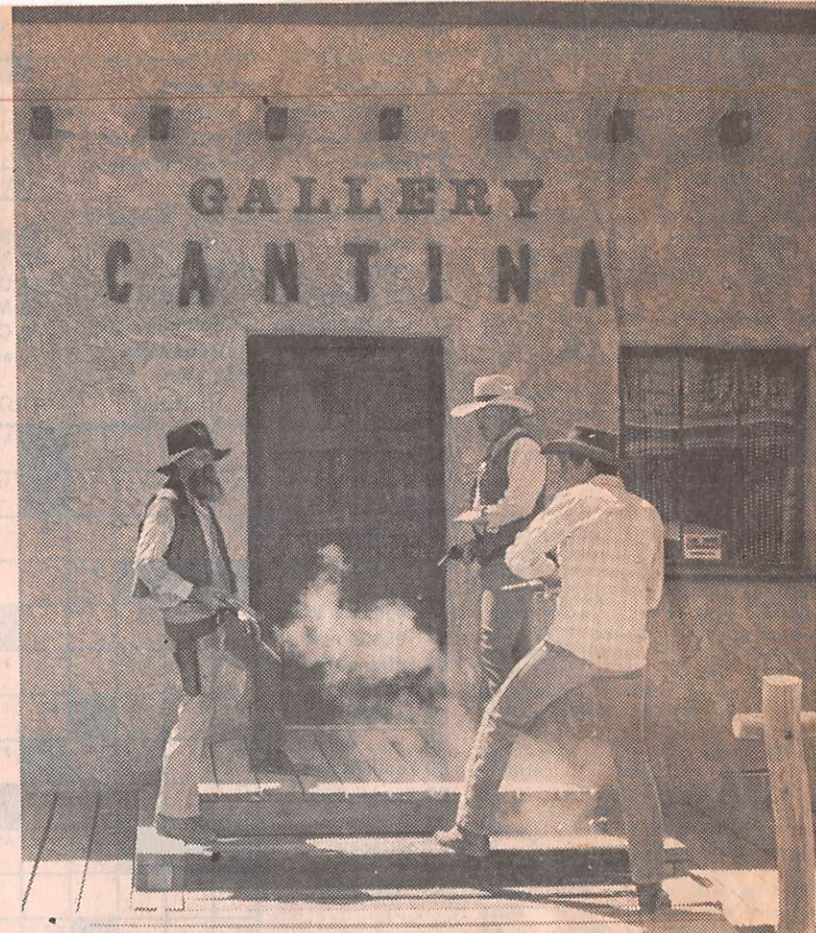
brought from Corrinne and renovated. The original Heber depot has also been restored and houses the Sons of the Utah Pioneers Railroad Museum. Locomotives and railroad cars of the era are displayed nearby.

The Olde Time Ice Cream Parlor, across the street from the main terminal, was once a blacksmith shop. It is hexagonal and has four doors, because the family that ran the business had a feud. Each smitty came and went through a separate door and, although they didn't speak to each other, they shared the fire and equipment.

The Shirt Off My Back is a tee-shirt shop next door to Just Friends, a child-oriented gift shop.

Nansing's specializes in oriental artwork and souvenirs, reminders of the Chinese who made up most of the railroad work crews when they laid tracks across the west, and also sells a selection of American-style gifts. Tourists can pick up train souvenirs and information about things to do in Utah at the Brigham Emporium, then fill up on ice cream and sodas at the old-fashioned fountain, while someone plays the old pump organ, in the Red Belle.

The Mercantile Co-op is run by 14 crafts people, each of whom takes a turn selling the group's various, handmade wares. The Sheriff's Office has been taken over by a photo shop which provides early-century costumes and



Troublemakers Larry Tucker, Mark Connolly and Glen Van Wagoner settle a dispute the old-fashioned way, with gunfire.

props for old-time portraits. Some of the authentic, old props include a pump organ, pot belly stove, desks and chairs, and a stuffed chair which was owned by Brigham Young.

Little Bit of Country is run by three generations of one family and features corn-husk dolls, handmade by an award-winner in Missouri, as well as other handmade articles and souvenirs. Customers can also sample their first funnel cakes, made from a family recipe

which originated in the Ozarks. It is a cake batter, poured into a funnel, then dribbled in noodle-like ribbons into deep fat, fried, and topped with powdered sugar or fruit sauce.



Larry "EZ" Tucker, Mark Connolly and Glen VanWagoner were not able to settle the dispute that started at the Cantina, without gunfire.



Arrival of the Heber Creeper gathers a crowd in 1896 just as it did in 1899.

CREEPER

Continued from T-1

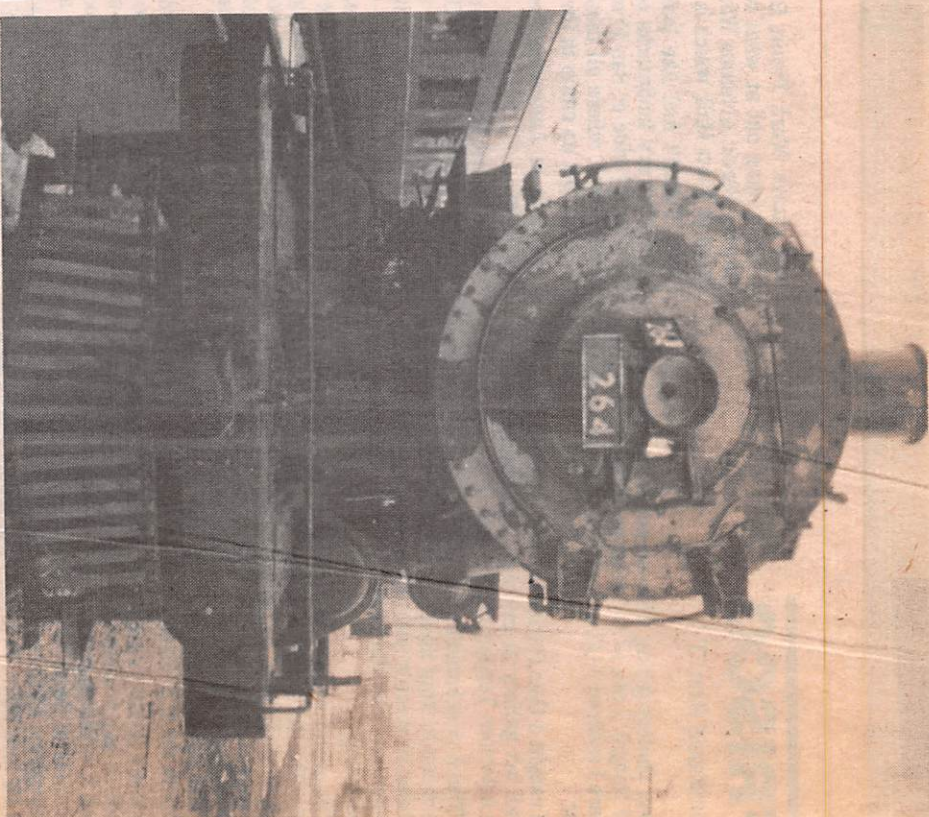
train goes mid-way down the canyon to Vivian Park, near Bridal Veil Falls, it uses a steam engine.

As far as the Santa Claus Express goes, Santa Claus himself pays a visit. He boards the train at the dam, and walks up and down the aisles, passing out candy canes to children, who are delighted. Take 2-year-old Kael Smith, from Vernal, who is so anxious about seeing Santa that he almost cries. When Santa comes by and he discovers that the jolly old elf is not someone to be afraid of, Kael waves and holds out his hand for a handshake.

The Santa Claus Express runs daily through Dec. 31, departing the Heber Train Depot, 600 West 100 South, at 1:30 p.m., returning at 4 p.m. The cost is \$8 for adults and \$4 for children 3-12. Food is available in the snack bar car, or you may bring your own. Unlike the summertime Heber Creeper, with its open-air cars, cars on the Santa Claus Express are enclosed. For information call 1-654-3229.

22 Dec 1985

Typical Santa Express patrons: Kael Smith, 2, of Vernal and his brother Cameron, 10.



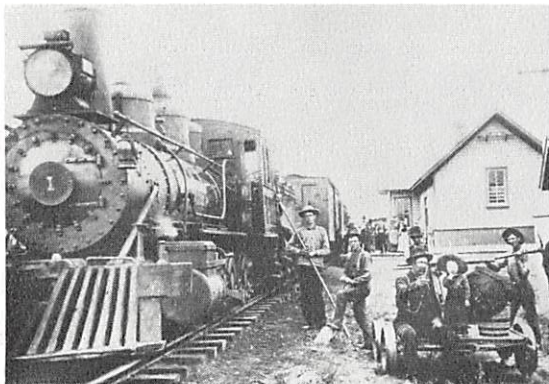
Steam engine on display at Heber train depot.

COME ALONG AND RIDE THIS TRAIN!

HEBER VALLEY

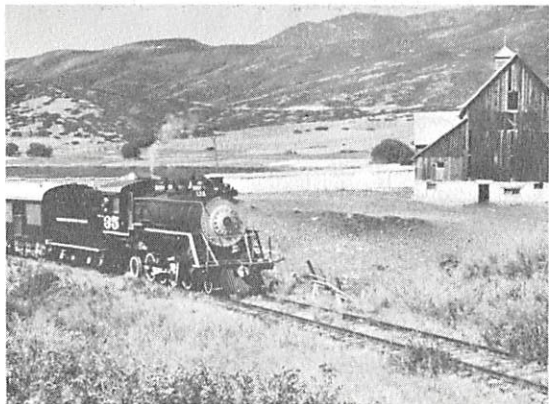
UTAH

Come along and ride this train across the valley and through the canyon on the 18.5 mile Wasatch Mountain Railway. Heber Valley was settled over a century ago by Swiss and English emigrants venturing into the area as Mormon Pioneers. Here they established their homes, schools and churches relying on agriculture, stockraising and mining for a livelihood.



HEBER CITY (circa 1905)

The Provo Canyon line was started by Brigham Young's son, a director of the Utah Eastern Railway, in 1890. When the U.E. failed, it was taken over and completed by the Rio Grande Railroad Co. to deliver produce, freight and passengers into Heber Valley. The railroad line also played a very active role in transporting large numbers of sheep to distant markets as Heber Valley became known as the sheep shipping center of western America.



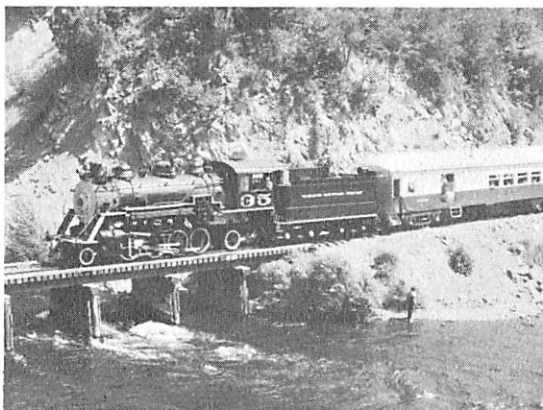
HEBER VALLEY

Leaving the valley floor and thundering deep into Wasatch Mountain State Park, the "HEBER CREEPER" traverses the high rocky cliffs on the long western bank of Deer Creek Reservoir. More than 22,000 acres of unspoiled

mountain splendor make the Wasatch Mountain State Park a playground for the picnicker, hiker, camper, horse-back rider, fisherman, water skier, swimmer and golf enthusiast. Beyond Deer Creek Reservoir stretches the majestic depths of Provo Canyon.

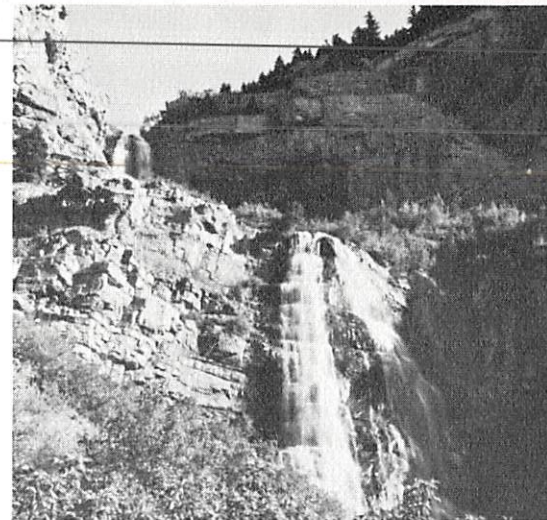


DEER CREEK RESERVOIR



PROVO CANYON

At the base of towering Mt. Timpanogos, which rises to 11,750 feet, is nestled the route of the "CREEPER" within the wooded Provo River Canyon. End of the line is located at the bottom of Bridal Veil Falls, site of the World's steepest aerial tramway.



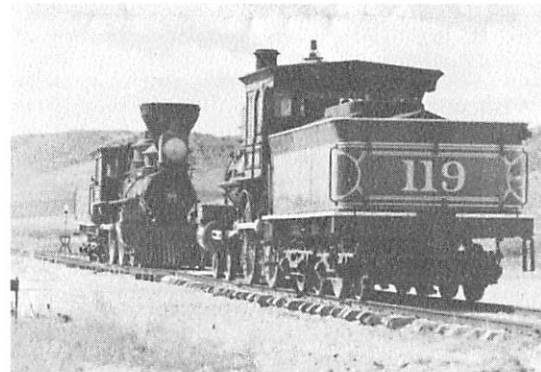
BRIDAL VAIL FALLS

The Wasatch Mountain Railway's HEBER CREEPER huffs, puffs and whistles an Iron Horse ballad into the grand Wasatch Mountains for a taste of railroading's golden age. Colorful cars pulled by legendary steam locomotives will carry you through the majestic, winding palisades of Provo River Canyon, along the rugged cliffs above Deer Creek Reservoir and then across the fertile floor of Heber Valley. Come along and ride this train!

SPECIAL GROUP CHARTER

Charter trips include use of the train and locomotive for an entire run with an optional stop for picnicking. Trips of this nature are highly suitable for church groups, employee outings, convention activities, college and school organizations. Write for special group rates.

GOLDEN SPIKE EMPIRE



While visiting Utah, may we suggest you visit historic Promontory Summit in the heart of world famous "Golden Spike" country. It was at Promontory on May 10, 1869, that America's first transcontinental railroad was completed. Today, this area is a national historic site with a visitor's center, museum, replica locomotives, and a daily summer program of reenactments.



HEBER CREEPER

P.O. BOX 69, HEBER CITY, UTAH 84032
PHONE: (801) 654-2621



SPECIAL NOTICE

The main depot of the Wasatch Mountain Railway is located on the western edge of Heber City, Utah, six blocks west of Main via 100 South. Ample free parking is available in the rear of the depot for cars, trucks, campers, and trailers. Though overnight camping is not permitted on railroad property, improved camping accommodations for campers and camp trailers are available inside Wasatch Mountain State Park three miles from the center of Heber City. Your ticket includes rail fare as shown, but does not include meals or admittance to any other attraction. Beverages and snacks are available on the train at reasonable prices. Special passenger services, such as required by wheelchair patrons, should be arranged in advance. Please dress as you wish, but please, for your own safety, avoid wearing spike heeled shoes. To assure space, you may prefer to contact our office for reservations.

REGULAR SERVICE

See current timetable for schedule.

HEBER CREEPER

HEBER CITY, UTAH, 84032



THE

HEBER

CREEPER

IRON HORSE TRAIL THROUGH THE UTAH ALPS